

NORTHALLERTON

*Urban District Council.*

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'

ANNUAL REPORTS

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FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1913.

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BY

W. BAIGENT, M.D., Medical Officer of Health,


AND

Wm. WATSON, Cert. R. San. I., Inspector of Nuisances.

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NORTHALLERTON :

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# NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

NORTHALLERTON,

JANUARY 30TH, 1914.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended December 31st, 1913.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting and submitting to you the Medical Officer's Report upon the progress and present state of sanitary matters in your area for the year ended December 31st, 1913. The records of steady improvement contained in this Report speak for themselves, and show that the members of the Council of this district are alive to their responsibilities, and are wishful to help forward any scheme for the welfare or sanitary improvement of the town.

### Population.

The population has increased in number by 140 since the census was taken in 1911, and now estimated to the middle of the year has reached 4,946.

TABLE 1.

Year.	Inhabited Houses.		Average.		Population.	
1911	...	1075	...	4·47	...	4826
1912	...	1085	...	4·50	...	4886
1913	...	1088	...	4·54	...	4946

## Deaths.

The total deaths registered in the district, but not all belonging to the district, number 67, against 64 last year. With the correction made for "residents and non-residents," the deaths only number 57 as belonging to the district, which gives the low **death rate for Northallerton of 11·5 per 1,000 estimated population.** This has only been improved upon once during the past 13 years, when there was a death rate of 11·2 in 1904.

For the past 13 years a record has been kept of the average age at death, and particulars of those reaching the age of 70 years and over. These are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2.

Average age at Death.			Over 70 years.		
1900	...	45·3 years	70 to 75 years	...	5
1901	...	35·2 "	75 to 80	"	3
1902	...	41·0 "	80 to 85	"	6
1903	...	45·3 "	85 to 90	"	1
1904	...	41·3 "			
1905	...	40·2 "			15
1906	...	38·9 "			
1907	...	58·0 "			
1908	...	44·0 "			
1909	...	51·5 "			
1910	...	49·0 "			
1911	...	49·5 "			
1912	...	50·0 "			
1913	..	40·5 "			

Dealing with the total number of deaths, and not including those of infants, or those caused by infectious diseases, these deaths were due to the following causes:—Cancer, 7; Heart Diseases, 9; Bronchitis, 2; Pneumonia, 4; Cirrhosis of Liver, 2; Bright's Disease, 4; Violent Deaths, 1; other defined causes not specially tabulated, 18.

## Infantile Mortality.

The deaths under 1 year of age number 12, of these 7 died before attaining the age of 1 month. This is the same number as the year 1911, and only 1 more than the average for the past 5 years.

**The infantile death rate is 104·3 per 1,000 births registered.** The precise cause of these 12 deaths is shown in the next table, and it is satisfactory to note that 7 of these deaths were due to premature birth or atelectasis, and 1 only to epidemic enteritis. This

may be considered a low mortality from this cause, when the nature of the season is taken into account. Two of these children were illegitimate.

TABLE 3.

## Infantile Deaths.

9 hours, Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
12 „ „ „	...	...	...	1
1 day, Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
5 „ Infantile Convulsions	...	...	...	1
20 „ Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
21 „ „	...	...	...	1
1 month, Epidemic Enteritis	...	...	...	1
1 „ Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
2 „ Convulsions	...	...	...	1
3 „ Meningitis	...	...	...	1
11 „ Bronchial Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
				<hr/> 12 <hr/>

## Zymotic Death Rate.

No death belonging to the area was due to ordinary notifiable infectious disease, but 1 death belonging to the rural area died in the Fever Hospital from Diphtheria. Tubercular diseases, which are now compulsorily notifiable, account for 4 deaths, and other infectious diseases not notifiable 5 deaths, viz. :—Measles, 3 ; Influenza, 2.

TABLE 4.

Year.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate. (notifiable).
1900	18·0	0·50
1901	13·2	0·74
1902	12·8	0·49
1903	17·7	0·49
1904	11·2	—
1905	15·3	0·41
1906	15·2	—
1907	13·2	—
1908	13·6	0·23
1909	15·2	—
1910	13·6	0·47
1911	13·0	—
1912	12·4	0·61
1913	11·5	—



## Births.

The number registered in the area is 115, which gives a **birth rate of 23·2 per 1,000 estimated population.** The number of males being 59 and females 56, 6 males and 3 females being illegitimate.

It will be noticed the proportion of births to deaths keep much the same as during several years past, the births being about double the number of deaths.

## General Health

The general health of this district on the whole has been remarkably good throughout the past year. Considering the prolonged drought, and consequent shortage in the town's water supply, it is most encouraging to know we escaped outbreaks of most Zymotic diseases, thus pointing to improvement in the sanitary surrounding of the area generally. The amount of infectious disease notified, although more than the past two or three years, is really not more than the average taken over a longer period. The numbers isolated which are larger are dealt with later, and the diseases notified during the different months are shown in the following table:—

TABLE 5.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	1	...	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1	1	2	1	1	—	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	6	4	7	2	2	28
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	1	4	6
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	6	5	7	3	6	35

It will be noted that diseases of this character occurred to some extent during each month with the exception of June, and that the amount totals 35 cases.

## Diphtheria.

We have been remarkably free from this disease during the past few years, and the cases notified during the year under consideration number only 6, and 4 of these were in December. They were mostly mild cases, and all were treated in the Fever Hospital. This

result I partly attribute to the vigilance of the school masters and mistresses of the Elementary and other schools, who are constantly on the alert and call attention to ailing children attending school. As it is highly desirable the importance of this should not be underestimated, I will repeat the following paragraphs which have appeared in previous Annual Reports. By so doing such matters are not only emphasised, but each time reproduced they are likely to come under the notice of newly-appointed teachers, or others who are equally interested.

“It is now well recognised that persons, particularly children, may have the germs of Diphtheria in their throats, without themselves actually suffering from the disease, and still be capable of spreading Diphtheria to others, particularly in schools.”

“Such persons are called ‘carriers.’ It is important that all school teachers should be aware of this, and it is also important when Diphtheria is prevalent that the throats of ailing children should be examined by their parents, as it is not uncommon in Diphtheria for a child not to draw attention to or complain of the throat until the disease is well advanced in severe cases, or not at all in mild cases. It is undetected cases of this kind which spread the disease to others, particularly if allowed to go to school under the impression that the child is suffering from some trifling ailment. During outbreaks of this kind it is the duty of parents to regularly examine the throats of their children, and teachers to be on the alert for children suffering from throat symptoms.”

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There has been a remarkable wave of mild Scarlet Fever spreading over many of the counties of England during the past summer and autumn, and Northallerton has not fared worse than the majority of places. There have been 28 cases, practically all of them mild ones. Four were treated at home, and 24 isolated in the Fever Hospital. All the houses where cases occurred I personally visited, and it was not always possible to detect the source of infection, but a few were contracted no doubt at school, where a very mild case, which had not previously had medical treatment, was detected. The schools have been kept under observation, with the object of detecting such possible sources of infection.

### **Typhoid Fever.**

This disease, which some years ago was so prevalent in the town as to be regarded almost as an annual visitor, has now practically disappeared, and for several years the number of cases have been few. Our case was imported from Middleham, where the man had been working for some months and came to Northallerton suffering from the disease. He was isolated in the Hospital here at the expense of this Council.

## Fever Hospitals.

The arrangement for working the Urban and Rural District Fever Hospitals conjointly during the past year, as in previous years, has been a great success, the work going on smoothly as usual. The nursing is undertaken by the North Riding Rural Nursing Association for an inclusive fee per patient per week, which has proved a most economical and efficient arrangement. The hospitals are worked as far as possible to receive one class of infectious disease in one hospital. Plans for further outbuildings of the nature of a wash-house and mortuary have been prepared and passed, and the buildings are about to be erected. The corrugated iron buildings placed near the above hospital are available for isolating any case of small-pox. Table 6 shows the number of Urban and Rural cases isolated in each of the old and new hospitals during the past 15 years, with the total for these years.

TABLE 6.

OLD URBAN HOSPITAL.						OLD RURAL HOSPITAL.				
Year.	Urban Cases.		Rural Cases.		Closed.	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.		Hospital Closed.	
1899	...	12	...	5	4 mths.	11	...	3	...	7 mths.
1900	...	8	...	8	6 wks.	6	...	4	...	9 "
1901	...	10	...	5	5 mths.	9	...	8	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
1902	...	7	...	12	18 wks.	4	...	5 permanently in May.		
1903	...	19	...	1	5 mths.	—	...	—	...	—
1904	...	5	...	1	5 "	30	...	20	...	28 mths.
1905	...	4	...	0	9 "					
1906	...	1	...	0	49 wks.					
1907	...	0	...	2	9 mths.					
1908	...	5	...	1	6 "					
1909	...	1	...	0	11 "					
1910	...	2	...	1	10 "					
		74		36	81 mths.					
NEW URBAN HOSPITAL.						NEW RURAL HOSPITAL.				
1910	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	6	...	7 mths.
1911	...	1	...	0	11 mths.	10	...	9	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
1912	...	2	...	1	42 wks.	5	...	9	...	13 wks.
1913	...	7	...	13	3 mths.	24	...	22	...	—
		10		14	24 mths.	42		46		12 $\frac{1}{2}$ mths

Total in 15 years—Urban Cases, 156 ; Rural Cases, 116.



## Control of Tuberculosis.

There is no complete scheme for the control of Tuberculosis in this area, or within the area of the County Council. It is reported schemes are being considered by the County Council, but of what nature or in what stage they are is not yet publicly known. Some cases of phthisis have sanatorium treatment at Aysgarth, in Wensleydale, where there are beds under the control of the North Riding Insurance Committee and reserved for their use. Tuberculosis should be considered a disease coming under the same category as other infectious and contagious diseases. It is a disease capable of being much diminished, if not eradicated by proper methods of isolation and treatment. It is a disease which is wide spread, and the total amount is now definitely known. It is a disease which can frequently be cured when the treatment is sufficiently prolonged in its early stages, but if left frequently becomes hopelessly incurable, and during the time it is running its course is frequently spread to others. As this is its nature is not the time ripe for some full and comprehensive scheme to be undertaken which would embrace the care and treatment of all sufferers from this disease who require help? The mere fact of them suffering from this disease should be sufficient to entitle them to proper isolation and education in the rational treatment of this scourge! The Sanitary Authority is surely the body to undertake the treatment of the remainder of these cases if not the whole of them. It does on reflection seem strange that one dangerous and widespread infectious disease should be dealt with in a different manner to the others.

## Housing Accommodation for Working Classes.

Of late years dwelling houses suitable for both the labouring and better working classes have been built in considerable numbers considering the size of the town, but more recently at a much slower rate. The accommodation in this district is now very good, and there is consequently little difficulty to the workman finding himself a house within reasonable distance of his work and at a rent suitable to his earning capacity. Consequently there is at present no need for any scheme being undertaken by the sanitary or local authority. The newly built houses are all of an improved type, and all plans for the erection of these or other houses are submitted and require the approval of the Building and Sanitary Committee.

## Sewerage and Drainage.

The New Sewage Disposal Works have now been in continuous working order for nearly three years. The first and last of these

years being dry and droughty in the extreme, and the other abnormally wet. Both the character and quantity of the sewage to be treated has therefore varied much, and the works have been given a most severe test over a very wide range of varying conditions, having to treat sewage at markedly different temperatures, varying much in its composition, the amount of dilution and volume to be treated.

It is most pleasing to be able to report that all that was expected of these works has been amply fulfilled, that they have worked without any difficulty or hitch, and that their management has been efficient and economical.

The effluent continues to be clear, with no unpleasant odour save a slightly earthy smell, and is not given to secondary putrefaction. At the outfall pipe where the effluent is discharged into the Wiske the bed of the stream is clean, the water at least as clear as the rest of the river, and there is nothing to cause the least complaint. I have noticed snails and worms on the river bed below the outfall pipe, and conclude they are washed down from the filter beds. This rather points to a good effluent, otherwise they could not exist.

After the years of stress, worry, and anxiety, the Council passed through before finally deciding to erect these works, it is gratifying to feel that the responsibility they took upon their shoulders by counselling delay and caution, so as not to rush into a second scheme which might be of an experimental nature, but to have first proved to their satisfaction that any works they might adopt should have had at least a reasonable and proper trial; that the delay necessarily caused by making these enquiries has proved not to have been wilful procrastination, not even valuable time lost, but to have been to the best interests of the town, and the choice as to which system they would eventually adopt to have been a wise one.

## **Pollution of Streams.**

Where the "Romanby Beck" enters the urban area of Northallerton much of the water is removed from the stream by the N.E. Railway Company's pumping engine at the North End of the town. When the volume of water is large this is of little consequence, but during droughty periods it seriously diminishes the flow of water over that portion of the stream's course near the town, which is just the portion where we require all the current of water we are able to get.

This stream is not seriously polluted in the urban area as it was in former years, but what pollution there is was very noticeable both in the water itself and also in the bed of the stream during the summer drought, and was aggravated no doubt by the pumping operations above spoken of. As mentioned last year the pollution consists of:—



1. Drainage from a Tan Yard, discharged intermittently, composed of lime and water in which raw hides have been washed and soaked. No tan liquor is discharged, or liquid from other tanks which is valuable, and is therefore kept for further use. This continues as reported last year, when the levels of these drains and the town sewer were taken by the Sanitary Inspector. Owing to the outlet being 6 ft. below the level of the town's sewer great difficulty in dealing with it is found, but a scheme of land filtration is suggested.
2. Drainage from 5 cottages adjoining and 3 houses near the Tan Yard.  
The North Eastern Railway Company have provided a tank and filters through which the sewage from the Company's cottages near the Tan Yard is passed before it reaches the beck. This tank has so far worked satisfactorily.
3. Drainage from 3 cottages at the railway north end. The effect of the above system has been watched, and a scheme is under consideration by the North Eastern Railway Company.
4. Drainage from Mount Pleasant, which is first passed through settling tanks.
5. The drainage from a few small houses on Castle Hills known as Layfield's Cottages. These could easily be connected with the town's sewer, but at present the matter is in dispute with the North Eastern Railway Company as to the ownership of the drain.

## House Refuse.

The system of public scavenging in the town has much improved of late years, and the regularity with which it is done testifies to this improvement. Dust-bins are emptied once each week, and ashpits once a fortnight to once a month according to surroundings, size, and the amount they usually contain. The night-soil is led to a tip in a well chosen hollow on the town's boundaries, where it causes no inconvenience, and much of the material is subsequently led away by the farmers to be used as a land fertilizer.

Annual Reports for several years have summed up my ideas about ashpits, and have advocated their abolition wherever possible. As this important matter should not be lost sight of, I beg to repeat them in their entirety:—

“The area contains insanitary, offensive ashpits, and some which are emptied by the contents being wheeled in barrows and deposited in the roadway before carting away. The fouled surface

of the road is always well sprinkled with disinfecting powder, but this method is uncleanly and dangerous to health. Privy ashpits have been improved of late years, and many have been abolished, but there is still a great deal to be done in this direction. I trust when we have the increased water supply, and efficient sewage disposal works, *all* these places will be abolished, polluted buildings and collections of filth will be removed—conditions which pollute the atmosphere, taint the food in crowded areas, and breed the germ-spreading house-fly—and their place taken by w.c.'s, and the zinc dust-bin to be emptied each week. Some new houses have pan closets, which in theory are an improvement on the obsolete privy ashpits, but in practice the improvement is very questionable, as so much depends upon the cleanliness and orderly habits of the individual users, and when carelessly used, or improperly kept, are as bad as, if not worse, than the old system."

"I still am strongly of the opinion that the carrying out of the above scheme would not only make the town even more healthy, but would also, by the removal of these objectionable collections, make many yards and back premises more wholesome, many of the gardens pleasanter places, and many areas where children play an aid to health rather than a source of danger,"

"The Council have done and are doing much to improve the sanitary condition of the area. The New Sewage Disposal Works are not only provided, but are now a proved success; the scheme for an extended water supply is at present being carried out, both of which require completion and in working order before it is possible to depart entirely from this obsolete and objectionable system. But the time is, I hope, not far distant when the Council will see their way to abolish this system root and branch, and I am of the opinion that much further headway in sanitary matters cannot be made until this is done." The methods above spoken of, and which have been pressed forward for many years, are the same methods which are at present being similarly pressed forward and adopted in most enlightened and improving areas. Many property owners no doubt find the first cost a heavy one, but it should be realised that it is by no means all loss, as the property is improved, and ultimately there is also a saving in the cost of scavenging and therefore of the rates. The saving so far from this cause in this area is probably over £100 per year. The scavengers are also ahead of their work, instead of weeks behind as in former periods.

### **Water Supply.**

The Water Supply coming as it does from the Hambleton Uplands is free from all risks of contamination and is an ideal supply as to its purity, clearness and softness. The quantity, however, has



not been sufficient for the district's demands for some time past. This is especially felt during a season such as the year we are reviewing, when the shortage has amounted in some cases to want, and in others to serious inconvenience. Considering all things it is nothing short of remarkable that a flow of this magnitude, which is not large at its best, should hold out at all during such a season when even larger supplies in wetter counties have given out in large numbers.

To provide against this shortage in future years, the new scheme (1909), consisting of a works for impounding the water of an upland beck at a level above the present compensating reservoir, has long been in hand. It was the full expectation of the Council that this would be in operation before the close of the present year. Delays of various kinds have kept back this scheme, and the works are not in the advanced state the Council had good reason to anticipate. Work is now being carried on at a more rapid rate, and it is to be hoped the period of suspense and anxious delay is now a thing of the past, and that it may soon be possible to gauge the date when the works will be completed and opened.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, &c.**

All these places have received the amount of inspection that is usually bestowed upon them, and attention directed to the amount of whitewashing and the general cleanliness of the premises.

It is noticeable all over the country how attention is being gradually centred upon the importance of a town's milk supply, how the character of the milk as to its cleanliness, and how it is handled, from its source at the milking to the time it reaches the house of the consumer, is being more and more enquired into both by the authorities and the general public. It is well this should be so as the risks of contamination are great. Considering cotton wool filters for the filtration of milk have been in use now for several years, it is surprising the general public do not insist upon all milk dealers using them in place of the old method of sileing the milk through a piece of linen cloth. When using this obsolete method the milk dissolves or washes through a large amount of dirt it is supposed to remove. Is it because the consumers do not know? These filters have new cotton wool pads inserted each time they are used, the smallest particles of dirt are retained in the cotton wool, and the piece is then thrown away or burned. The price of the filters is such that they are within the reach of all, and it seems strange they are not universally used. It should also be more generally known that milk frequently becomes infected with tubercle bacilli not through the udder of the cow but through the dust and dirt of the byre. Tubercular cows frequently suffer from this disease in the bowels, and therefore pass contaminated

motions, which readily find their way into the milk along with the dust and dirt, where care and cleanliness are not observed. Hence the importance of a filter more efficient than the one commonly in use.

Dairy cows are now more regularly and systematically tested for tuberculosis than formerly, and the dairy farmer is more alert as to the importance of having tubercular free cattle in his houses.

The supply of meat in this area is good, and diseased or known tuberculous meat is not likely to be exposed for sale here. The inspection of meat and slaughter houses is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector during the ordinary course of his inspections.

Many of the slaughter houses are not well placed, and it would be a great improvement to have either a public or a combined slaughter house outside the town, but otherwise these places are fairly well kept as to cleanliness, whitewashing, &c.

### **Factory and Workshops Act, 1911.**

This is a small agricultural town, therefore the workshops and workplaces are small and unimportant compared with a manufacturing town and employ few hands. They are generally well kept, and have been inspected as usual, and also when any special occasion arises. There are no outworkers known to me.

The Bakehouses are also small, one is underground, and kept open under licence. They have good sanitary surroundings, are clean and regularly whitewashed.

### **Housing and Town Planning Act.**

The house inspection of the district under the above Act was commenced during the year 1911, the work being carried out by the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector. During the past year further progress has been made with the houses on the east side of the town, working block by block towards the North End. This portion has now been all but completed. The defects requiring to be remedied, which were not previously known, and dealt with previously in this Report, are not very numerous. The condition of the houses as to cleanliness and repair were found to be better than in some houses at previous inspections.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of						
the Act of 1909	...	...	...	...	...	70
Number found unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of representations made to local authority with						
a view to making closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Number of defects remedied without closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number put in a state fit for human habitation after						
closing order	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

General character of defects found to exist :—

Foul Ashpits ...	...	...	...	4
Foul Privies ...	...	...	...	6
Damp Walls ...	...	...	...	4
Defects in Paving ...	...	..	...	5
Defective Spouting ...	...	...	...	3

I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for the considerate manner in which my Reports have been received, and Mr. Watson for the help accorded me during the year just closed.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BAIGENT,

Mediclc Offiaer of Health.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

OF THE

Urban Sanitary District of Northallerton.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report, which covers the whole of the year 1913.

### BUILDING WORK.

House building has not been brisk during the year. Two houses in course of erection at the beginning of the year have been completed and occupied, also one other house, plans of which have been submitted for your approval during the year has been completed and occupied.



Plans for two other cottages in connection with a new brickyard have been laid before you and approved, but have not been completed, there being a difficulty with respect to the water supply. Plans of another house have been laid before you and approved, building of which is now in progress.

One plan of dwelling house was laid before you and disapproved, the drainage not being satisfactory.

The other building work has comprised a political club, new suite of offices for Stock Mart Co., Motor Garage and Store, and New Picture Hall. All but the latter have been completed.

The prospects of house building for the present year are perhaps brighter, as land to the extent of eight acres, abutting on the Brompton Road, Quaker Lane, has been purchased for the purpose of laying out new streets. This is expected to go on as soon as possession can be obtained.

### STATUTORY NOTICES.

Four Statutory Notifications have been served during the year under Sections 38-39 of the Public Health Act, 1875, requiring improved sanitary accommodation, some of these have been carried out and some are in hand, notices served just previous to January, 13 have been completed, and the results are found in the list of improvements.

Many other improvements have been carried out through personal interview or letter, pointing out what was required without compulsory notice.

It has not been necessary to take any case to the Court.

### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	5
Water Closets displacing above	...	...	...	...	14
„ in new and other places	...	...	...	...	5
New baths	...	...	...	...	2

Work now in hand will add further to the number of W.C.'s and reduce the number of foul privies.

In the yards where ashpits have been removed and W.C.s provided, the drainage has been constructed on up-to-date methods, and the yard surfaces flagged or asphalted, thus affecting a greatly improved appearance, together with improved sanitary conditions.



## SCAVENGING.

This work continues to be done, as reported last year, by your own staff with part hired team labour, and is generally satisfactory. Some ashpits are cleared weekly, some few fortnightly, and all monthly. The pans and dust-bins are cleared weekly.

The accumulation of night-soil at the dépôt has been disposed of to farmers and others.

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS.

The sewers mentioned in last year's report as defective have not yet been dealt with. They have given no trouble during the year. One of the main sewers was found to be nearly choked, and when opened out was found to have a considerable deposit of gravel and grit, being an accumulation of years. It was with great difficulty thoroughly cleared, and a residuum pit constructed, which has been regularly cleaned out, since then no further trouble has arisen.

The prospective building mentioned under "building" will require a new sewer along Quaker Lane.

The arrangement made for treating the sewage from the North Eastern Railway cottages mentioned in last year's report has so far been satisfactory.

## SEWAGE WORKS.

The sewage disposal works have dealt with the sewage most successfully.

Owing to the long period of dry weather the flow of subsoil water into the sewers was considerably reduced, the sewage consequently being stronger, but during this time there was no difficulty in producing an excellent effluent. The sludge has been readily disposed of at a largely increased price.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These are the same as last year. There has been trouble with one occupier with respect to the removal of garbage, &c., but ultimately he made arrangements to remove it into a field, and since then no complaint has been made. All are under licence.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The Common Lodging House has been in regular use throughout the year. It is very well managed.

## FEVER HOSPITAL.

The Fever Hospital has unfortunately been in constant use during the year.

Plans have been prepared and tenders obtained for the erection of a laundry and disinfecting chamber. This is now in course of erection and should be completed in about a month.

## GENERALLY.

I regret that the remark generally respecting the completion of new water works is again applicable this year. viz., "further delay in the completion of the new water works is disappointing." This has to a certain extent retarded progress in the abolition of the foul privy midden and the provision of water closets, but one with a certain amount of trepidity ventures to anticipate their completion during the present year, and in this event the sanitary work may be expedited.

It is a pleasure to note that the policy of the Council is now so well known that no attempt is made to provide the ordinary privy and ashpit in new property, or where alterations are made in old property.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the support of the Council and the kindly directions of the Medical Officer.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM WATSON.